

Current Status – ESSC Project

August 1, 2008

1. The building designs are largely completed for both the Helena and Miles City ESSCs. The design effort was extended by a month to conduct an energy study and to research the Kyoto Cooling alternative. The project will go out for bid shortly and a contractor is expected to be under contract in October with ground-breaking to take place this fall. Occupancy of the Helena ESSC is expected in January 2010. The Miles City ESSC will be completed in the fall of 2009.
2. ITSD worked with the Budget Office and the Design Team to assess the feasibility of using the Kyoto Cooling cooling-wheel equipment to reduce the energy requirements of the Helena ESSC. Engineering studies conservatively estimate the wheel approach will reduce the electrical demand for cooling by 1.7 million Kwh per year. The decision was made to include the cooling wheel approach in the design, subject to due diligence. Additional funding for this innovative approach is being arranged, including likely use of the DEQ bonded energy funds. Due diligence activities are underway, including a site visit to an existing installation of the cooling wheel technology.
3. The MOU between DOA/ITSD and MDT for use of a site on MDT property is nearing completion. The draft MOU has been reviewed by MDT and final language will be worked out shortly. The Miles City site has been surveyed to facilitate the change in “administrative responsibility” to DOA.
4. The IT project (actually a number of “subprojects”) to relocate the Mitchell Building ITSD data center to the Helena ESSC, and to make use of the facilities, is in the planning stage. Preliminary plans have been drafted and additional project management support will be focused on this part of the project shortly to refine the plans and manage their execution.
5. The Budget Office and ITSD are reviewing the Administration’s vision of the ESSC and its potential benefits to agencies, the State enterprise and the citizens of Montana. The experiences and plans of other states in the area of shared IT services are among the factors being considered carefully. Security, quality service, reliability and cost-effectiveness are the foremost objectives of the effort.

For additional information please contact Mike Boyer (x3279).